

Senator Susan M. Collins  
Nomination of Lance E. Walker  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
June 6, 2018

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Senator Feinstein, members of the Committee. It is an honor to appear before the Committee today to recommend Justice Lance Walker, who has been nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the State of Maine. With nearly two decades of experience as both an attorney and as a judge in Maine, Justice Walker is well-qualified for the federal bench.

Justice Walker is a life-long Mainer, where he lives with his wife Heidi and their two daughters. I'm glad that they, as well as Mr. Walker's parents, and other proud members of Justice Walker's family were able to travel to Washington to be with us today.

Justice Walker was born in the small town of Milo, Maine and raised in Dover-Foxcroft. He graduated from the University of Maine and the University Of Maine School Of Law, with honors. He clerked for the Maine Superior Court before entering private practice.

Early in his career, Mr. Walker distinguished himself as a skilled trial and appellate attorney at the law firm of Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, one of the premier law firms in our state. He tried cases before juries and judges throughout Maine, as well as in federal court, and was selected for recognition in respected peer-reviewed legal publications such as Benchmark Litigation, Super Lawyers, and Best Lawyers in America.

In 2014, Justice Walker was unanimously confirmed to the Maine District Court by the Maine State Senate. He adjudicated a wide variety of cases primarily in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties. A year later, Justice Walker was nominated to serve on the Maine Superior Court, Maine's trial court of general jurisdiction, a post to which he was also unanimously confirmed. Justice Walker has presided over complex criminal and civil cases, appeals, post-conviction reviews, and jury trials.

As a judge, Justice Walker has spoken with recovering addicts and caregivers about the opioid crisis in our state and its intersection with the criminal justice system, an urgent issue in my state and so many others.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee has received several letters of support from legal professionals in Maine who know Justice Walker well, including from attorneys who have appeared before him, and from the Maine Trial Lawyers Association. And I would ask unanimous consent that those letters be entered into the record at the appropriate point. He has a reputation for fairness, impartiality, and respect for law. As Daniel Wathen, former Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court, wrote:

I have known a lot of lawyers and judges in my fifty three year legal career in Maine, and I can think of no one who is better qualified to assume the trial bench in the federal court system. Having served on the

Supreme Court of Maine for more than twenty years, I believe I can recognize a good judge. Lance's nomination is well deserved and if confirmed, he will serve with integrity, competence, and humanity. In short, he will add to the strength and stature of the distinguished federal bench in Maine.

Mr. Chairman, Justice Walker has the intellect, experience, integrity, temperament, and respect for the Constitution and the rule of law that are essential in a federal judge. His extensive experience in private practice and as a state judge make him well-qualified for the federal district court, and if confirmed, he will serve the people of Maine and this nation fairly and capably.

I urge the Committee to approve Justice Walker's nomination and to move it forward to the Senate floor, where it deserves strong bipartisan support. Thank you Mr. Chairman.